

The THOREAU SOCIETY BULLETIN

BULLETIN SEVENTY-SEVEN

FALL 1961

The Thoreau Society Inc. is an informal organization of students and followers of Henry D. Thoreau. Officers include Prof. Lewis Leary, Columbia University, New York City, president; Mrs. Herbert Hosmer, Concord, Mass., vice-president; and Walter Harding, State University, Geneseo, N.Y., secretary-treasurer. Annual membership is two dollars; life, twenty-five.

THOREAU AND THE PIG by John E. Nickols

Several generations of the Flannery family had lived in the Town of Concord before Charlie was born, lived most of his life and settled in his old age on a park bench that stood just beside the flagpole on the easterly end of the green across from the Town House. The dapper little man was visible to the tourists as they circled the north end of the Milldam looking in bewilderment for someone to direct them to the house of Louisa May Alcott, Sleepy Hollow Cemetery or a dozen other places.

Charlie was a friendly, handy, unofficial visitor's guide before the Chamber of Commerce talked the town meeting into voting money for an outhouse size, clapboarded information booth with a full time attendant and brochures that illustrate and describe the places of literary and historical interest. Charlie didn't have any brochures. He didn't need any help describing Concord and its rich and varied past. Besides, Charlie had his own opinions about the importance of Concord's historic sites and noted citizens.

"What do you want to go all the way out to Walden Pond for?" I heard him ask a tourist. "I'll take you to the Old North Bridge; that is worth visiting. That was an important battle there," he said; then he trailed off into a preliminary sketch of the battle between the farmers and the British. Just a mention of Walden set him off.

"That Thoreau, he lived in a hut out there by the pond, he wasn't much, besides that he was insulting; he was an insulting man." Charlie was getting fired up.

"Why, do you know my grandfather and Henry Thoreau pounded lead together, yessir, they pounded lead together." Charlie took it for granted that I knew he was talking about pencil making.

"He was an insulting man," Charlie repeated.

"Do you know what he said to my grandfather, I'll tell you what he said."

"My grandfather used to take Thoreau home to eat dinner. Henry Thoreau ate dinner at my grandfather's house plenty of times, when they were poundin' lead together."

"One time my grandfather took Henry Thoreau home with him to eat dinner. When they got to the house the pigs were loose. My grandfather said, 'Henry, help me drive the pigs out of the yard; you stand in the barn door over there,'" Charlie said.

"You stand there and don't let the pigs run

into the barn," grandfather asked Thoreau to guard the door. Henry stood in the door. Just then one of the pigs made a run for the barn. Henry started to head him off but the pig ran right between his legs. Knocked Henry right off his feet. He got up, dusted himself off and he said to my grandfather, "Mr. Flannery, only an Irish pig would do a thing like that."

Charlie was indignant, "Imagine that, imagine him saying a thing like that...an Irish pig... I tell you that man was insulting."

THOREAU AND THE NEW YORK TRIBUNE: A CHECKLIST
by Helen B. Morrison

(Unquestionably Thoreau's most effective publicity agent during his lifetime was Horace Greeley, the editor of the NEW YORK TRIBUNE. The two men met in 1843 when Thoreau was living on Staten Island and continued their friendship throughout Thoreau's life. Greeley regularly acted as Thoreau's literary agent, placing his essays in various periodicals of the day. But equally important, he continually kept Thoreau's name before the readers of the TRIBUNE.

Mrs. Helen B. Morrison, editor of THOREAU TODAY (New York: Comet, 1957), has made the first intensive search of the files of the NEW YORK TRIBUNE for mentions of Thoreau and has thus uncovered many, many hitherto unnoticed items. They are listed here in simple chronological order.)

1. January 10, 1843

An article entitled "The Children of the Mist" is an answer to a review of a lecture by Mr. Bancroft entitled "Spirit of the Age." It is signed H. Could this be Thoreau? Sounds like his writing, but no further identification of H.

2. April 11, 1843

Issue gives contents of 'The Dial', no. XII, April 1, 1843. Then, "we rather like these lines by Thoreau:" Then the poem 'Haze' which is definitely signed Thoreau. Then, a comment by the editor on Thoreau's contributions of some translations from Anacreon. About a half a column.

3. October 19, 1843

In issue under notice of 'The Dial' for October; "We have not room to speak of 'A Winter's Walk' by H. D. Thoreau.

4. October 27, 1843

• Almost 2 columns from "A Winter's Walk signed by H. D. T.

5. January 25, 1844

'The Dial' for January notices: A comment on the lecture on Poetry by H. D. T. (2 columns)

6. April, 1844

'The Dial', no. XVI, for April 1844: "The Dial was filled with admirable papers by R. W. E., C. Lane, W. E. Channing, H. D. Thoreau, and others of the noblest intellects and the most genial spirits in New England... The Dial has now closed its fourth annual volume, and we have heard that it may not be continued. We hope otherwise" etc. etc.

7. May 18, 1844

"The Dial, the most original and thoughtful periodical ever published in this country, has suspended its issues for the present....It has been sustained for three years by the free-will contributions of R. W. Emerson, Margaret Fuller, W. E. Channing, Theodore Parker, C. Lane, J. S. Dwight, C. A. Dana, Henry D. Thoreau, E. Peabody, and others of the deepest thinkers and most advanced minds in our country."

-8. . November 17, 1848

Under the title of "Ktaadn and the Maine Woods," Mr. H. D. Thoreau of Concord, Mass., has been publishing a series of sketches in the Union Magazine which are quite superior to any description of wild-woods life that we have seen for several years. (Over 4 columns of extracts).

9. November 18, 1848

"We give several additional extracts from Mr. Thoreau's narrative of his journeyings in the Maine Wilderness." (a full column, followed by:) "We take leave of Mr. Thoreau's narrative by quoting its splendid conclusion--as fine a piece of unrhymed poetry as we have ever read." (Begins: "The new world" and goes $\frac{1}{2}$ a column.)

10. June 13, 1849

On 1st page under "Reviews of New Books"

"H. D. Thoreau's book 'A Week On The Concord And Merrimack Rivers', (pp. 413. 12 mo.) Boston, Munroe Co. N.Y.G.P. Putnam." Together with the review, there are 4 extracts from the text, almost 2 columns. The review criticizes Thoreau's "misplaced Pantheistic attack on the Christian Faith." But calls it, "a really new book--a fresh, original, thoughtful work." Closing: Albeit we love not theological controversy, we proffer our columns to Mr. Thoreau, should he see fit to answer these questions. We would have preferred to pass the theme in silence, but our admiration of his book and our reprehension of its Pantheism forbade that course. May we not hope he will reconsider his too rashly expressed notions on this head?"

11. July 25, 1850

Under the title "The Wreck of the Elizabeth"
"....Rev. Mr. Fuller and Mr. Henry D. Thoreau of Concord, Mass., left yesterday for Fire Island."

12. June 19, 1852

Under title of New Publications: "Sartain for July. Among other notable articles....a quaint essay on 'The Iron Horse' by Henry D. Thoreau.... Thoreau's musings on the locomotive are characteristic, Emersonian many will say. They are that and something more. They draw a sweet moral from the sourest features of New England."

13. July 22, 1852

"Sartain's Magazine for August notes articles by"....C. P. Cranch, Alice Carey and Thoreau.... and others of which any magazine may well be proud."

14. August 2, 1854

Under title: Slavery in Massachusetts: "An address, delivered at the Anti-Slavery celebration at Framingham, Mass., July 4, 1854, by Henry D. Thoreau of Concord, Mass." (Almost 3 columns)

15. August 8, 1854

Under title: New Publications: "Life in the Woods, on Wed. Aug. 9, Ticknor and Fields will publish Walden, or Life in the Woods by Henry D. Thoreau."

"When I wrote the following pages, or rather the bulk of them, I lived alone in the woods, a mile from any neighbor, in a house which I built myself on the shore of Walden Pond, in Concord, Mass., and earned by living by the labor of my hands only."

At the end of this ad: "This striking and original book will be published in 1 vol. 16 mo. in cloth, at \$1." All 18 chapters are named under table of contents.

The ad is repeated in the Tribune for Aug. 9, 1854, and a smaller ad in the issue for August 10, 1854.

16. October 19, 1855

Under title: "The Lecture Season", Henry D. Thoreau's name is mentioned among others including, Emerson, Thackeray, H. W. Beecher, Bayard Taylor, George W. Curtis, Lucy Stone Blackwell, etc.

[To Be Continued]

ADDITIONS TO THE THOREAU BIBLIOGRAPHY WH

Atkinson, Brooks. "Thoreau's Accession to the Hall of Fame Took Long, but Now Presents Problems."

NEW YORK TIMES. Oct. 3, 1961. Syndicated in many newspapers.

Caldwell, William A. "Walden and the Tick in the Hall." RECORD (Hackensack, N.J.) Nov. 1, 1961. A recent visit to Walden Pond.

Curtis, Edith Roelker. A SEASON IN UTOPIA: THE STORY OF BROOK FARM. New York: Nelson, 1961, 346pp. \$6.95. The first, thorough-going, accurate account of the Transcendentalist experiment in community living. A book that we have long needed. Thoreau is mentioned only very briefly since he took no active part in the community, but there is a great deal of importance here for a background of understanding of his times and of his friends.

Derleth, August. WALDEN WEST. New York: Duell, Sloan, & Pearce, 1961. 262pp. \$4.95. A collection of superb short stories and sketches about Sac Prairie, Wisconsin, with one of its announced major themes a series of illustrations of Thoreau's statement that "The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation." Also includes a number of comments on Derleth's own personal interest in Thoreau.

Emerson, Ralph Waldo. THE JOURNALS AND MISCELLANEOUS NOTEBOOKS OF. Edited by W. Gilman, et al. Vol. II. 1822-1826. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1961, 438pp. \$10.00. The second in the projected 16 volume complete edition of all of Emerson's journals and notebooks. Like the first volume, it is a magnificent piece of editing. Although the period covered is still too early to include any direct mention of Thoreau, the volume is decidedly important as background material for understanding Transcendentalism, and thus Thoreau's way of thinking. There is an exceptionally interesting sketch of President

John Adams, and some of Emerson's early thoughts on "Compensation." Certainly we should all do our utmost to encourage Harvard University Press in the continuance of this magnificent project.

Larter, Nancy. "Thoreau's Thought Was That You Learn More About Nature by Practicing Humanity." BOSTON HERALD. Oct. 24, 1961.

Paine, Barbara. "Thoreau's Wildflowers: a 100-Year Record." AUDUBON MAGAZINE, LXIII (July, 1961), 194-7. How Mrs. Edmund Fenn of Concord and Mr. Richard Eaton of Lincoln are confirming Thoreau's wildflower records of a century ago.

Scott, Louise. "Walden." CONCORD JOURNAL. Aug. 10, 1961. A sonnet.

Thoreau, Henry David. CAPE COD. New York: Crowell, 1961, 319pp. \$4.00. A beautiful new edition, with large, clear print, and with decorations by Clare Leighton.

----- THE MAINE WOODS. New York: Crowell, 1961. 423pp. \$4.00. A companion to the above volume.

*----- WALDEN. With an introduction by Brooks Atkinson. New York: Crowell, 1961. 440pp. A companion to the above volumes. The introduction by Mr. Atkinson is short, but very much to the point. Unfortunately the text of WALDEN itself is corrupt at points. This volume and the three others herein listed are issued in a special boxed edition, clothbound for \$12.50 the set, and paperbound, \$7.50 the set. For readability of type and beautiful simplicity of typography and decorations, this is unquestionably the best collected edition of Thoreau's major works available today.

----- The Same. (Abridged). With notes by P. Ramachandra Rao. Guntur, India: Maruthi Book Depot. Rupees 2-8-0. With 244 pages of notes and comments.

----- WALDEN AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE. With an introduction and notes by Sherman Paul. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1960. 266pp. A revision of the Riverside paperback Edition with "Civil Disobedience" added.

----- A WEEK ON THE CONCORD AND MERRIMACK RIVERS. New York: Crowell, 1961. 492pp. \$4.00. The 4th volume in the Crowell edition described above.

----- The Same. New York: New American Library, 1961. 341pp. 75¢. After years of having no inexpensive edition of A WEEK available, here is the second paperback edition out in a few months. (See Bulletin 76 for Sentry Edition). This is less than half the price of the other, but has a less sturdy binding and smaller margins. The type readability is about the same in the two. The brief foreword by Denham Sutcliffe manages to make a fairly large number of misstatements of fact, but it does show a sympathetic understanding of Thoreau's ideas.

Van Dore, Wade. VERSE WITH A VENGEANCE. Boston: Bruce Humphries, 1961. 48pp. \$2.75. A collection of vitriolic verses with frequent reference to Thoreau in the foreword, the dedication, and even the copyright statement! On p. 43 it includes a poem entitled, "Two Reasons Why the Unique and Great Henry Thoreau Will Never Be a Popular Author." The poem: "He does not ever pet or dandle us./ His truth is so true it is scandalous."

Whitman, Walt. THE CORRESPONDENCE OF WALT WHITMAN. Vol. I, 1842-1867; Vol. II, 1868-1875. New York: New York University Press, 1961. 394, 387pp. \$10, per volume. Occasional references to Tho-

reau.

Willson, Lawrence. "The Transcendentalist View of the West." WESTERN HUMANITIES REVIEW, XIV (Spring, 1960), 183-191. Thoreau's literal and figurative opinions of the West.

AN EARLY THOREAU CLUB by Walter Harding

Our Thoreau Society, founded in 1941, is already one of the older organizations in this country devoted to a literary figure. But little did we dream at the time of its establishment twenty years ago that there had been a "Thoreau Club" established in 1891! Records of this earlier organization have just come to light. Unlike the Thoreau Society, it was a local rather than national and international organization. And also unlike the Thoreau Society, its membership was only a handful and its life-span only a matter of months or possibly a few years.

Records of this earlier organization came to light this past summer, when Mr. William Mandeville, one of my students here at State University College at Geneseo, was going through family papers in his attic and found a little brown paper notebook, measuring 5" by 8", labeled "Thoreau Club. Nov. 1891. American Literature Club. LeRoy, N.Y. Oct. 18/94." Inside the notebook was a series of brief biographies of various American authors such as Lowell and Holmes, written out in pencil, and occasional pictures of and clippings about these authors pasted in.

Laid in was a smaller notebook fashioned from several pieces of writing paper fastened together and labeled, "Thoreau Club Henry David Thoreau. 1817-1862." Inside were a series of pen and pencil notes, which I print verbatim:

"Born at Concord-Mass. Ancesters-English Puritan-Scottish-Jersey-American, French. he inherited distinctive traits. Saxon element prevailed.

"His family ever held in respect. H. drove the cows to pasture, became intimate with nature. He never distinguished himself at school or Harvard. but was an intelligent scholar. Made collections for Agassiz at 12 yrs.

"T. was school master--then lecturer and author & professionally a surveyor. Retired to Walden Pond--built a hut--resided there two yrs. lived by surveying--jobwork and tilling soil for beans & potatoes. Read, wrote, knew beasts, birds and fishes better than Agassiz. Birds came at his call, beasts lipped & caressed him. fish would glide between his hands unfearful. Friend was Emerson.--Affectionate with children--old people considerate. Loved mankind but preferred animals & birds. Buried at Sleepy Hollow--beside Hawthorne & Emerson-Principal work is Walden written about his secluded life there.

"So our human life but dies down to its root, and still puts forth its green blade to eternity. (In Walden) (H.D.Thoreau.)

"He was a Saxon genius. Father a maker of lead pencils. "I will never do again what I have done once." When wanted money, he surveyed. Never went to church--never voted, never payed state tax.

"He was the bachelor of thought & nature.

"I have been living ill of late, but am doing better."

"It cost him nothing to say No, indeed he found it much easier than to say Yes.

"He could find his path in the woods at night better by his feet than his eyes.

"You can sleep near the railroad & never be disturbed: Nature knows very well what sounds are worth attending to, & has made up her mind not to hear the railroad whistle."

"By faithfulness, faith is earned--Thoreau--Salts Thoreau's Life (good)

"Very affectionate."

What are these random notes? We imagine they are the rough notes for a lecture on Thoreau at the Thoreau Club. What was the club itself? A little hand-written poem laid in the notebook tells the story:

The Members of the Thoreau Club.

Once upon a time, as the stories run,
There were fifteen little maids
Who thought they'd be wondrous wise, (in all their ways,)
And still have quite a little fun.

They were of all grades and age,
But what mattered that to these maids 'teen,
For you can plainly see, that to rage
Over this, why they could not be so mean.

They meet but twice a month,
But then they keep their "Feete,"
E'en though the "Roehsler" comes.
But she's not a dangerous one to meet,

For you see we're very "Straughn,"
'Cause we're banded one in all,
And it's as hard to part us
As it is the summer from the fall.

Our minds are very "Broad,"
And our "Feete" are rooted
On the wide and lovely "Beach."
I assure you we'd not be guilty of a single fraud.

But sometimes in our club, we're "Harrised"
By what we suppose, to much to do,
But then we go to work, right hard,
And with no "Whelptones" about it, too.

O, no we're not all dressed in "Lindsay,"
As you supposed we'd be
For you see that's not in our creed,
As you just asked me.

O, yes, we have two "Ottos"
Without them we'd not exist,
For when we find we're in the mist
We always call on them to right our woes.

And now, ye maidens four
To you I'll say just one word more,
And then I'll stop, for fear
To me, they'll show the door.

Without you, we would surely perish.
For the Misses Johnson, Finkenstardt,
Miss McMullan and Miss Hadida
We do most fondly cherish.

And now I'll say farewell,
And close this foolish ditty.
May it be many a long day
Before I write another half so silly.
Jessie C. Harris Feb. 12 / 92.
To the Thoreau Club.

Unfortunately we have been unable to track down any of the members of the club today, with the exception of one who is now in a nursing home and unable to give any further details of the club's activities. However Mr. Mandeville did find one other item, a broadside poem that we suspect was published for some reunion of the "Thoreau Club." Here it is:

The "Thoreau Club" Girls.

BY AHITAMEBULA.

One night, as I sat near the window
With a volume of Thoreau in hand,
I passed from the world and its troubles
O'er the boundaries that lead to Dream-land.
And I met on the portal of pleasure
Dame Nature, her hands full of pearls,
And she cried, "Come, I'll tell what I have here
To give to the 'Thoreau Club' Girls."

CHORUS.—

"Knowledge in each bud and flower and tree;
Music in the buzzing of the bee;
Songs that the wind sings as o'er the land it whirls,
I've gathered them up
In pleasure's cup
To give to the 'Thoreau Club' Girls."

"Go learn," said Dame Nature kindly,
"From one that I know loved me well,
Go learn all my ways and my habits
From him who has learned and can tell.
Go, seek and you surely will find me
And always find with me these pearls,
I'll give of them freely and gladly
To all of the Thoreau Club girls."

CHORUS.—"Knowledge in each bud," etc.

I awoke from my vision in dream-land
To find it a vision no more,
For Luna her bright beams was throwing
On me through the open door.
And I said, as I turned from the window,
"Perhaps I can get Nature's pearls,
So I'll off to the place of the meeting
And join with the 'Thoreau Club' girls."

CHORUS.—

Starlight, sunlight, all of them are ours,
Hills, and valleys, dotted o'er with flowers;
Beauty, for us her banner bright unfurls,
And Nature gives us
All she has,
For we are the "Thoreau Club" girls.

To the Members of the "Thoreau Club."

NOTES AND QUERIES . . .

Booklet #16, announced in last spring's bulletin, announced last spring, has been unavoidably postponed because of printing difficulties. We hope to issue it sometime this winter.

The cost of this bulletin has been covered by the life memberships of Miss Fanny E. James, Cohasset, Mass., and Mrs. Helen R. Wright, Watertown, Mass. Life membership is \$25.00.

The nominating committee for next year's election consists of Charles Feinberg, Detroit, Mich.; Harold Blodgett, Schenectady, N.Y.; and Roland Robbins, RFD, Concord, Mass., chairman. Please forward suggestions for nominations to the chairman.

Robert Stowell, Cabot, Vt., is anxious to secure a copy of Roger Payne's WHY WORK? Can anyone help? He also has many Thoreau books to sell or trade.

Plan to attend the Centennial Meeting at Morgan Library in New York City on Saturday, May 5, 1962.